

Claim 8. (Twice Amended) The therapeutic agent of hyperammonemia according to claim 5, which comprises said xylobiose or said xylooligosaccharide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said therapeutic agent has the activity of promoting the growth of organic acid producing enterobacteria.

Claim 9. (Amended) A therapeutic agent of hepatic encephalopathy comprising xylobiose as an active ingredient, wherein said therapeutic agent has the activity of promoting the growth of organic acid producing enterobacteria.

Claim 10. (Amended) The therapeutic agent of hepatic encephalopathy according to claim 9, which comprises xylooligosaccharide, said xylooligosaccharide comprising said xylobiose as a main ingredient, wherein said therapeutic agent has the activity of promoting the growth of organic acid producing enterobacteria.

Claim 11. (Amended) The therapeutic agent of hepatic encephalopathy according to claim 10, wherein said xylooligosaccharide contains at least 30 wt% of xylobiose.

Claim 13. (Amended) method for producing a blood ammonia lowering agent by employing xylobiose as an active therapeutic ingredient.

Claim 14. (Amended) A method for producing a blood ammonia lowering agent by employing xylooligosaccharide, containing xylobiose as a main ingredient, as an active therapeutic ingredient.

Claim 15. (Amended) A method for producing a therapeutic agent of hyperammonemia by employing xylobiose as an active therapeutic ingredient.

Claim 16. (Amended) A method for producing a therapeutic agent of hyperammonemia by employing xylooligosaccharide, containing xylobiose as a main ingredient, as an active therapeutic ingredient.

Claim 17. (Amended) A method for producing a therapeutic agent of hepatic encephalopathy by employing xylobiose as an active therapeutic ingredient.

Claim 18. (Amended) A method for producing a therapeutic agent of hepatic encephalopathy by employing xylooligosaccharide, containing xylobiose as a main ingredient, as an active therapeutic ingredient.

## REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

With regard to the priority claimed for this application, as referenced in section 13, page 1 of the Office Action, the applicants claimed priority under 35 USC 119/365 based upon Japanese Application 351955/1999, filed December